

IN THE CLAIMS:

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1. (Currently Amended) A method for managing an electronic document within a computer network, the method comprising:
 - creating a customer profile for a user;
 - setting a user preference in a customer profile, wherein the user preference specifies one or more databases, out of a plurality of databases, to which an electronic receipt is to be sent from point of sale devices;
 - creating an electronic receipt containing information about a transaction executed by the user at a point of sale device; and
 - sending the electronic receipt from the point of sale device to the one or more databases specified by the user preference a database, wherein the database is designated by the customer profile.
2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - receiving search parameters from the user, wherein the search parameters specify an electronic receipt within the one or more databases specified by the user preference database;
 - initiating a receipt search object which retrieves the specified electronic receipt from the one or more databases specified by the user preference database, according to the search parameters; and
 - downloading a copy of the retrieved electronic receipt to a client machine designated by the customer profile.
3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the customer profile comprises at least one of the following:
 - customer name;
 - password;
 - credit card numbers;
 - client machine addresses;
 - tax deduction information;

A | purchase classification; and
personal financial manager applications used on a client machine.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the database containing the electronic receipts is on a credit card company server.
5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the database containing the electronic receipts is on a manufacturer server.
6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the database containing the electronic receipts is on a merchant cash receipt server.
7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the database containing the electronic receipts is on a clearing house server.
8. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the electronic receipt further comprises at least one of the following:
 - customer name;
 - customer password;
 - item type;
 - brand name;
 - date of purchase;
 - purchase price;
 - method of purchase;
 - credit card number;
 - tax deduction status; and
 - warranty information.
9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the search parameters comprise at least one of the following:
 - customer name;

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customer password;
item type;
brand name;
approximate date of purchase;
approximate purchase price;
method of purchase;
credit card number; and
tax deduction status.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein merchants and manufacturers may use the electronic receipts to send product information to customers, the product information comprising at least one of the following:

extended warranties;
product upgrades;
product recalls;
product safety updates;
identical items available for exchange; and
alternative and substitute items available for exchange.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the electronic receipts are encrypted, preventing the information content of the electronic receipts from being modified.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the client machine may be at least one of the following:

personal computer;
laptop computer;
personal digital assistant;
mobile telephone; and
palm computer.

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13. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising: initiating the receipt search object to delete an electronic receipt from the database, according to the search parameter.
14. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising: initiating the receipt search object to automatically delete an electronic receipt from the database at a predefined time.
15. (Currently Amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in a data processing system, for managing an electronic document within a computer network, the computer program product comprising:
 - instructions for creating a customer profile for a user;
 - instructions for setting a user preference in a customer profile, wherein the user preference specifies one or more databases, out of a plurality of databases, to which an electronic receipt is to be sent from point of sale devices;
 - instructions for creating an electronic receipt containing information about a transaction executed by the user at a point of sale device; and
 - instructions for sending the electronic receipt from the point of sale device to the one or more databases specified by the user preference a database, wherein the database is designated by the customer profile.
16. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to claim 15, further comprising:
 - instructions for receiving search parameters from the user, wherein the search parameters specify an electronic receipt within the one or more databases specified by the user preference database;
 - instructions for initiating a receipt search object which retrieves the specified electronic receipt from the one or more databases specified by the user preference database, according to the search parameters; and
 - instructions for downloading a copy of the retrieved electronic receipt to a client machine designated by the customer profile.

A | 17. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 15, wherein the customer profile comprises at least one of the following:

customer name;
password;
credit card numbers;
client machine addresses;
tax deduction information;
purchase classification; and
personal financial manager applications used on a client machine.

18. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 15, wherein the electronic receipt further comprises at least one of the following:

customer name;
customer password;
item type;
brand name;
date of purchase;
purchase price;
method of purchase;
credit card number;
tax deduction status; and
warranty information.

19. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 15, wherein the search parameters comprise at least one of the following:

customer name;
customer password;
item type;
brand name;
approximate date of purchase;
approximate purchase price;

A | method of purchase;
credit card number; and
tax deduction status.

20. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 15, wherein the electronic receipts are encrypted, preventing the information content of the electronic receipts from being modified.

21. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 15, further comprising: instructions for initiating the receipt search object to delete an electronic receipt from the database, according to the search parameter.

22. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 15, further comprising:
instructions for initiating the receipt search object to automatically delete an electronic receipt from the database at a predefined time.

23. (Currently Amended) A system for managing an electronic document within a computer network, the system comprising:
a storage component which contains a customer profile for a user;
an input component for setting a user preference in a customer profile, wherein the user preference specifies one or more databases, out of a plurality of databases, to which an electronic receipt is to be sent from point of sale devices;
a processing component which creates an electronic receipt containing information about a transaction executed by the user at a point of sale device; and
a communication component which sends the electronic receipt from the point of sale device to the one or more databases specified by the user preference a database, wherein the database is designated by the customer profile.

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24. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 23, further comprising:

- an input component which receives search parameters from the user, wherein the search parameters specify an electronic receipt within the one or more databases specified by the user preference database;
- a processing component which initiates a receipt search object to retrieve the specified electronic receipt from the one or more databases specified by the user preference database, according to the search parameters; and
- a downloading component which downloads a copy of the retrieved electronic receipt to a client machine designated by the customer profile.
